AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, comprising:

a server in communication with a workstation over a network, the workstation executing a design tool application;

a bill of material assist application executing on at least one of the server and the workstation for managing said parts requirements processes, the bill of material assist application performing:

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on the workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from a the plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.

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2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one storage device in communication with the server, the at least one storage device housing:

a database of parts information.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device further houses:

a database of procurement information relating to a~~the~~ review, approval, and purchase of bill of material components.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device further houses:

a database of computer aided drafting information relating to product designs.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device further houses:

a database of approved vendors lists.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device further houses:

a database of bill of material files.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein said database of parts information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources and is accessible to the server over the network.

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein said database of procurement information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources and is accessible to the server over the network.

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said database of computer aided drafting information is commercially provided by one of said plurality of external sources

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and is accessible to the server over the network.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising modifying component parts data on said bill of material in response to reviewing said summary.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprises:

an approved vendor list indicating approved sources of component supply for items on said bill of material; wherein the summary includes approved vendors operable for determining alternative sources of component supply.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising modifying said bill of material based upon said approved vendors in said summary.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising transferring a modified bill of material to relevant entities for review or approval.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising modifying said bill of material based upon said review or said approval.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said mapping each component part in the list is performed by: importing component parts data listed on the bill of material to a bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the component parts data; and

importing the corresponding part selection process information to the bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the corresponding part selection process information.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said importing said

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component parts data to said bill of material assist application is performed electronically whereby said component parts data is stored in a database.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein said plurality of sources include:

at least one parts database;

at least one procurement database;

at least one computer aided drafting database;

at least one approved vendors database; and

external supplier databases.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprises data pertaining to:

map flags;

life cycles;

duplicate local part numbers;

local part numbers;

part descriptions;

leaf class description;

messages;

supplier names;

supplier part numbers;

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alternative local part numbers;

quantities;

data providers;

engineering changes;

engineering statuses;

technical usage codes;

engineers names;

supply statuses;

restricted usage codes;

end of life dates;

lead times;

part sourcing statuses;

reference designators;

commodities; and

comments desired by a system user.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

modifying component parts data on said bill of material in response to reviewing said summary.

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24. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprisesan approved vendor list indicating approved sources of component supply for items on said bill of material; wherein the summary includes approved vendors operable for determining alternative sources of component supply.

25. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

modifying said bill of material based upon said approved vendors in said summary.

26. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 23, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

transferring a modified bill of material to relevant entities for review or approval.

27. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 26, further comprising instructions for causing the computer to implement:

modifying said bill of material based upon said review or said approval.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, wherein said mapping each component part in the list is performed by:

importing component parts data listed on the bill of material to a bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the component parts data; and

importing the corresponding part selection process information to the bill of material assist application, the bill of material assist application including associated data fields for receiving the corresponding part selection process information.

30. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, wherein said importing said component parts data to said bill of material assist application is performed electronically

whereby said component parts data is stored in a database.

31. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, wherein said plurality of sources include:

at least one parts database;

at least one procurement database;

at least one computer aided drafting database;

at least one approved vendors database; and

external supplier databases.

32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 35, wherein the corresponding part selection process information further comprises data pertaining to:

map flags;

life cycles;

duplicate local part numbers;

local part numbers;

part descriptions;

leaf class description;

messages;

supplier names;

supplier part numbers;

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alternative local part numbers;

quantities;

data providers;

engineering changes;

engineering statuses;

technical usage codes;

engineers names;

supply statuses;

restricted usage codes;

end of life dates;

lead times;

part sourcing statuses;

reference designators;

commodities; and

comments desired by a system user.

34. (currently amended) A method for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, comprising:

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on a~~the~~ workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from a~~the~~

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plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.

35. (currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for managing parts requirements processes in an engineering environment, the program code including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a bill of material including a list of component parts in response to a product design conducted on ~~a~~the workstation;

mapping each component part in the list to corresponding part selection process information, the corresponding part selection process information acquired from ~~a~~the plurality of external sources; and

generating a summary resulting from the mapping;

wherein for each of the component parts in the list, the corresponding part selection process information includes at least one of:

a lead time;

a current supply status;

at least one supply source;

a cost;

an end-of-life data; and

a preferredness rating.

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